

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

DESCRIPTION

The Leach's Storm-petrel is a small (8-9"), swallow-like seabird, all black with a white rump. Its tail is somewhat forked, its feet are dark, and it has an erratic, butterfly-like flight pattern.

RANGE

Coasts and offshore islands from Labrador south to Maine, rarely to Massachusetts. Winters on the open ocean. Also breeds in the eastern Atlantic and on both sides of the Pacific.

STATE OCCURRENCES

Estimated 20-40 pairs breeding at a single island site off the coast of southwest Massachusetts.

HABITAT

This is a bird of the open ocean, coming ashore on rocky islands and coasts only to breed. It nests in colonies, in shallow burrows underground or under a log or a board.

POPULATION STATUS

Considered rare and seriously declining in Massachusetts.

LIMITING FACTORS

Limited nesting habitat; competition and predation from other seabirds, particularly gulls.



Golden Field Guide Series



Range



● Verified since 1978

Breeding Distribution in
Massachusetts by Town